

A native of Kingsland and Dyess, AR, Mr. Cash was respected and idolized by many in my State. It is always a tragedy to lose a native son, but I know the people of Arkansas will especially mourn the loss of Mr. Cash, who passed away last Friday at the age of 71.

Johnny Cash's life reads much like that of many Arkansas born during the dark and dreary days of the Depression. He was born to a family of sharecropper in Kingsland, February 26, 1932, a small town in South Arkansas not far from where my own father was born.

When he was 3, his family moved to Dyess, AR—a farming colony established by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal to help lift displaced farming families out of the Depression and the crushing poverty that still permeates a large part of the Delta soil. The Cash's were especially poor. A neighbor, Earl Condra of Harrisburg, who knew the plight of many families of the region once said, "We were poor, but the Cash's were about as poor as you could get."

No one in the family escaped working on the farm. By the time he was 6, Cash was carrying water to workers in the field. By 10 he working almost a full day in the cotton fields, from, as he said, "can 'til can't". When he was 12, his 14-year-old brother, whom young Johnny idolized, was killed in a saw accident while sawing oak logs into fence posts for the family farm. That same year, Cash's father told him he had reached "the age of accountability . . . you're accountable as a man, to yourself and to others."

For Cash, it seemed the only escape from his hard life was through music. After a long, hard day picking cotton in the fields, his family would often sit on their front porch and sing.

"I remember when I was a lad, times were hard and things were bad. But there's a silver lining behind every cloud. Just four the number of people, that's all we were, trying to make a living out of black land dirt. But we'd get together in a family circle singin' loud. Daddy sang bass, Momma sang tenor, me and little brother would join right in there. Singin' seems to help a troubled soul. One of these days, and it won't be long, I'll rejoin them in a song. I'm going to join the family circle at the throne," he recalled in one of his songs.

Indeed, by the age of 12, Cash was performing songs on the radio in Blytheville, AR.

Although he was one of few to graduate high school in post-Depression Arkansas, Cash knew his future lay in music.

"I think the first time I knew what I wanted to do with my life was when I was about 4 years old. I was listening to an old Victrola, playing a railroad song . . . I thought it was the most wonderful, amazing thing that I'd ever seen. That you could take this piece of wax and music would come out of that box. From that day on, I wanted to sing on the radio," he reminisced in a 1993 interview.

The quote under his picture in the 1950 Dyess Senior High School yearbook read, "Be a live wire and you won't get stepped on."

Within months of his graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to Landsberg, Germany, where he was a radio intercept operator tasked with intercepting Soviet Morse Code. And it was also in Germany that he learned to play the guitar.

After his discharge from the Air Force in 1954, Cash moved to Memphis, TN, to take a job as an appliance salesman and to attend broadcasting school through the G.I. bill.

It was in Memphis where Johnny Cash would get his chance to sing to great audiences. After being turned away on numerous occasions, Johnny woke early one morning and went to the Memphis office of the famous Sun Records to meet Sam Phillips and he arrived for work. After a brief session, Mr. Phillips told Johnny to return the next day with a band. From that day forward, Johnny Cash reigned as the undisputed king of the downtrodden poor, a working man's savior in song.

Johnny Cash sang with a scowl of determination. The darkness of the songs he sang was only brightened by the hope of the audiences he addressed. That this man, this legend, this poor kid from Arkansas, could succeed on the grandest scale by putting his experiences and his emotions into song, gave the poorest sharecropper and the most oppressed worker that hope. There are no parameters in song. No boundaries, no borders, no confinements. For in a song, a man may truly express the deep well of thought not to be expressed in polite society. Song crisscrosses through time with an ease and a fluidity that gives true freedom to those who are not free, whether they are beholden to debt, their family, society or their own shortcomings. Johnny Cash understood the nature of song like few before or after. He understood its power over people. He understood the hope it could give, the happiness it could bestow, the sorrow it could impart. He knew these things about music. He used this understanding to give voice to those that had none.

As he said in explaining his propensity to wear black clothes, "I tried to speak for the voices that were ignored or even suppressed by the entertainment media, not to mention the political and education establishments." As he put it, black clothes symbolized the dispossessed people of the world.

Johnny Cash achieved a level of success equal to that of the Beatles and Elvis. The legacy he left will be a lasting one in country and rock music. From jazz to blues to country music, to the rock and roll that was nurtured in its early years in the juke joints of the Delta South and the urban ghettos of the north, Johnny Cash contributed his own particular interpretation to this musical legacy: one that will forever be enshrined in the memories of his

friends, colleagues, and thousands of fans.

Johnny Cash sold more records than anyone in the world in 1967. He was so popular that he had his own ABC television series. He won eleven Grammys and was the youngest person ever inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He has also been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, has been honored with a Kennedy Center Award, and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. President Bush honored him with the National Medal of the Arts this past April.

Despite all of the professional accomplishments and accolades, I think Mr. Cash would rather us celebrate his life in terms of the people he touched with his music and his philanthropic work. In addition to his music, Mr. Cash endowed a burn research center, campaigned for prison reform, counseled former inmates transitioning to society, and donated and worked for the Mental Health association, Home for Autistic children, Refugees for Battered Women, the American Cancer Society, YWCA, and the Humane Society, among others.

Johnny Cash rose from nothing to everything on the strength of an iron will, gritty self-determination, and an unflappable faith in God, his family, and his music. Nothing he earned in his life came at the expense of others. Yet all he gave to all. Johnny Cash learned from his mistakes and ascended to a level higher than those who preceded him. He taught us to learn from our mistakes. He taught us to never give up, that the dreams of a small boy on a small farm in a small town can be big, and that they can come true. He taught us how to be free through the words and melody of a song. The lessons from his music are applicable today and will be for generations to come. Nothing captures the imagination of the heart like a great song. Mr. Cash captured the hearts of many. And his song will be missed. ●

RECOGNIZING DR. CYNTHIA HALDENBY TYSON

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I recognize Dr. Cynthia Tyson, who retired this year from her position as president of Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA.

Dr. Tyson was born and raised in England, where she received both her bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as her Ph.D. She first came to the United States as a Fulbright scholar, and has worked in higher education as both a lecturer and an administrator.

During her 18-year tenure at Mary Baldwin College, she was the active force behind that school's renaissance into a nationally renowned women's liberal arts college. From the beginning of her tenure in 1985 to this day, Mary Baldwin College has more than doubled its enrollment, with almost 2,200 students attending 6 locations throughout Virginia. The college has

consistently attracted more highly qualified applicants, with the SATs and GPAs of its applicants increasing every year. Under Dr. Tyson's presidency, Mary Baldwin's endowment has increased threefold, with a record-setting \$58 million raised in its most recent capital campaign. All told, Mary Baldwin College, thanks to Dr. Tyson, is the largest and fastest growing women's college in Virginia.

In addition to her work at Mary Baldwin College, Dr. Tyson served as president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and was an active member in professional organizations, including the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, and the State of Virginia Rhodes Scholarship Competition Selection Committee. She is also active in the Staunton community through the Frontier Culture Museum, Shenandoah Shakespeare, and Rotary International.

Dr. Tyson has left an indelible mark not only on the institution that she served so well as president but also on the hearts and minds of her colleagues, students, and community as a friend and inspiration. I congratulate her and wish her well in her retirement.●

THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of the Small Business Administration, which this year is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its service to America's small businesses.

This week marks the SBA's annual Small Business Week. Throughout the events of this week, the SBA will demonstrate many of the valuable programs that have been created to help entrepreneurs across the country achieve success over the past 50 years. The SBA is relied upon to help restore economically depressed communities, spur technological research and development, provide access to capital and business training, monitor the procurement practices of Federal agencies, and ensure small businesses are heard within the Federal Government.

With the assistance of the programs and resources of the Small Business Administration and its dedicated employees, thousands of small businesses across the country have developed and expanded. Some of those companies have since developed into household names after receiving help from the SBA; companies like Outback Steakhouse, Nike, and Staples. These businesses exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit that is so unique to this country.

The importance of the small business community cannot and should not be underestimated. The link between small businesses and a strong economy is clear: small businesses account for over 50 percent of nonfarm GDP, and account for 75 percent of all new jobs. Time and again, our small businesses

have led this Nation out of bad economic times.

We cannot help this country's economy by ignoring our small businesses and underfunding the initiatives meant to foster their establishment and growth. President Bush seems to understand that there is a need to support small businesses, but during his 3 years in office, he has yet to translate that understanding into actions. In his first year, he cut the SBA's budget by almost 50 percent. In his second year, he eliminated all funding for the agency's largest small-business loan program and shifted the cost—more than a hundred million—to the small businesses and the SBA's lending partners in the private sector who make the loans possible—never mind that the government was already overcharging them. He has cut funding for microloans and counseling—the SBA's number one program for reaching African Americans, Hispanics and women.

Here in the Senate, we are trying to pass legislation reauthorizing the programs of the Small Business Administration for another 3 years, and I think Chair SNOWE and the other members of the committee for working with me to create a bill that enables small businesses to continue to prosper. We are doing our part to assist small businesses, and the next step is to ensure that the SBA and its programs receive the funding they need to actively help small businesses across the country in these difficult economic times. The administration's low-ball request for FY 2004 will not help about adequate funding of the critical assistance that America's small businesses need. I intend to do everything possible to obtain necessary funding for these critical small business programs to ensure they will thrive in the next year and for the 50 years to come.●

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM G. O'BRIEN

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I recognize William O'Brien, county administrator for Rockingham County, VA, who is retiring December 31, 2003, after 26 years of dedicated service.

William O'Brien began his career in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he spent 4 years before receiving his bachelor's degree from Mansfield University in 1969. He later earned an MBA from Southeastern University in 1978 before taking his current position in Rockingham County. As county administrator, Mr. O'Brien spent 26 years dutifully serving the residents of Rockingham County. Prior to his work in Rockingham, he also served as county administrator for Warren County, VA from 1973 to 1977. In addition, Mr. O'Brien spent more than 10 years as a professor at James Madison University and Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA.

I congratulate Mr. O'Brien on his years of dedicated service to the people of Rockingham County and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and I wish him well in his retirement.●

RECOGNIZING LUTHER E. "IKEY" MILLER

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I recognize Mr. Luther E. "Ikey" Miller, who passed away on March 17, 2003 in Rileyville, VA.

Born on January 27, 1932, Mr. Miller was involved in a wide array of activities in his lifetime, including law, business, politics, the military, sports, music, and agriculture. Throughout his life, he was influential in his community. In 1973, he was appointed to serve as Page County Circuit Court clerk, a post that he held for 26 years, becoming an integral part of the local judiciary. Mr. Miller also served as chairman of the Page County Republican Party for 16 years, and as a Presidential elector for Virginia in the 2000 Presidential election. A Virginia native, he graduated from Luray High School in 1949. Mr. Miller entered the U.S. Army in 1952, serving until 1954, and achieving the rank of corporal before his honorable discharge. He also worked 21 years for First National Bank as a cashier and loan officer. Mr. Miller loved sports, especially baseball, which he played in the minor leagues, as well as football and hunting. He also farmed full-time throughout his life with the help of his family, and played in a country music band for 20 years.

Mr. Miller will surely be missed by his wife of 47 years Shirley, his family, friends, and the community he served so faithfully during his life. I join with the Miller family in mourning the loss of such a great family man, public servant, and Virginian.●

HONORING THE ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator STABENOW and myself, I congratulate the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra as it celebrates its 75th anniversary. The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra was founded by Phillip Potts on a chilly autumn evening in 1928. Potts and four musicians gathered in a basement room of a local church, set up their music stands, unpacked and tuned their instruments, and launched into what would become a musical legacy that has touched many in the Michigan community.

Today, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra includes over 150 professional musicians who perform under its auspices. The organization has an active and committed 45-member Board of Directors and a staff of five full-time employees. Each season, the symphony performs nine main stage concerts for 8,000 subscription patrons as well as five matinee concerts for over 1,000 senior citizens and five family-oriented concerts designed to engage family members of all ages. The group's extensive educational series includes four youth concerts, "Ensembles in the Classroom" during which orchestra members visit individual classrooms,